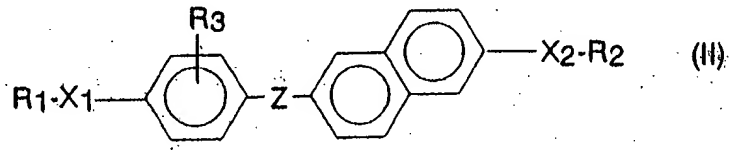
IN THE CLAIMS:

1. to 3. (Canceled)

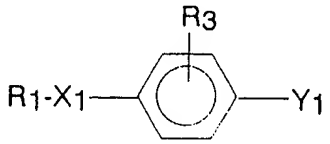
4. (Currently Amended) A process for producing ~~the~~ a liquid crystalline compound ~~according to claim 2~~, represented by the following general formula (II):



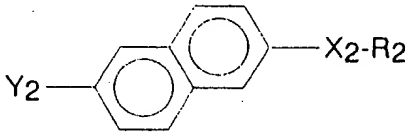
(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a straight-chain, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms and may be attached directly to the aromatic ring without through X_1 or X_2; R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a methyl group; X_1 represents a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, or $-CH_2-$ group; X_2 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, -NHCO-, or $-CH_2-$group; and Z represents a -N=N-, -CH=N-, $-CH_2S-$, or -CH=CH- group comprising the step of reacting a compound represented by the following

general formula (3) with a compound represented by the following general formula (4):



(3)



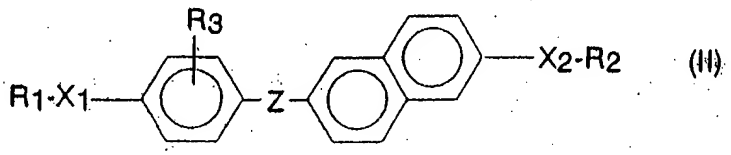
(4)

wherein R_1, R_2, R_3, X_1, and X_2 are as defined above; and Y_1 and Y_2 are respectively groups which are reacted with each other to form a -COO-, -OCO-, -N=N-, -CH=N-, $-CH_2S-$, -CH=CH-, or $-C\equiv C-$ group.

5. to 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) An image display device comprising ~~the compound according to claim 2~~ a liquid

crystalline compound represented by the following general formula (II):

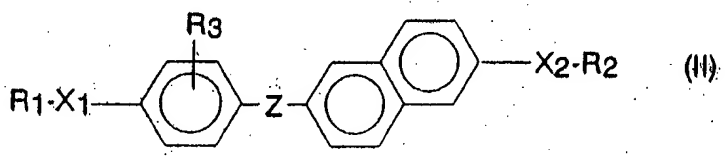


(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a straight-chain, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms and may be attached directly to the aromatic ring without through X_1 or X_2; R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a methyl group; X_1 represents a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, or $-CH_2-$ group; X_2 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, -NHCO-, or $-CH_2$-group; and Z represents a -N=N-, -CH=N-, $-CH_2S-$, or -CH=CH- group **in a drive path.**

12. (Currently Amended) An electroluminescence device comprising ~~the compound according to claim 2~~ a liquid

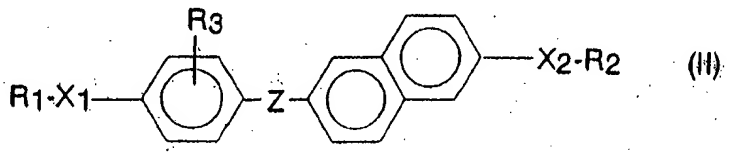
crystalline compound represented by the following general formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a straight-chain, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms and may be attached directly to the aromatic ring without through X_1 or X_2; R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a methyl group; X_1 represents a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, or $-CH_2-$ group; X_2 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, -NHCO-, or $-CH_2-$group; and Z represents a -N=N-, -CH=N-, $-CH_2S-$, or -CH=CH- group **in a drive path.**

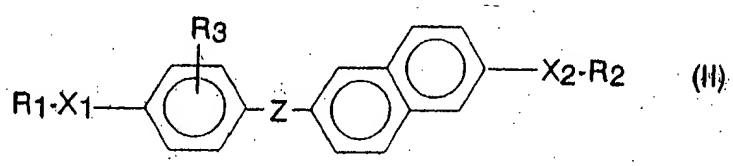
13. (Currently Amended) A photoconductor comprising ~~the compound according to claim 2~~ a liquid crystalline compound represented by the following general formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a straight-chain, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms and may be attached directly to the aromatic ring without through X_1 or X_2; R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a methyl group; X_1 represents a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, or $-CH_2-$ group; X_2 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, -NHCO-, or $-CH_2$-group; and Z represents a -N=N-, -CH=N-, $-CH_2S-$, or -CH=CH- group **in a drive path.**

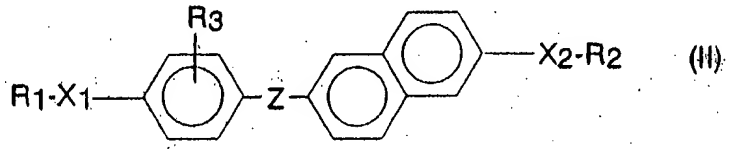
14. (Currently Amended) A space light modulating device comprising ~~the compound according to claim 2~~ a liquid crystalline compound represented by the following general formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a straight-chain, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms and may be attached directly to the aromatic ring without through X_1 or X_2; R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a methyl group; X_1 represents a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, or $-CH_2-$ group; X_2 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, -NHCO-, or $-CH_2$-group; and Z represents a -N=N-, -CH=N-, $-CH_2S-$, or -CH=CH- group **in a drive path.**

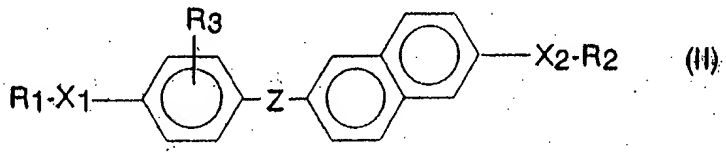
15. (Currently Amended) A thin film transistor comprising ~~the compound according to claim 2~~ a liquid crystalline compound represented by the following general formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a straight-chain, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms and may be attached directly to the aromatic ring without through X_1 or X_2; R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a methyl group; X_1 represents a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, or $-CH_2-$ group; X_2 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, -NHCO-, or $-CH_2$-group; and Z represents a -N=N-, -CH=N-, $-CH_2S-$, or -CH=CH- group **in a drive path.**

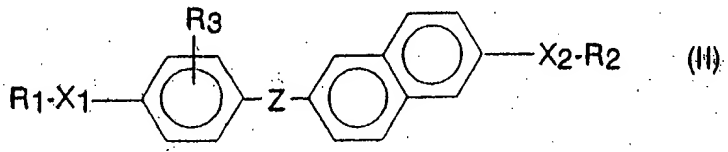
16. (Currently Amended) A sensor comprising ~~the compound according to claim 2~~ a liquid crystalline compound represented by the following general formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a straight-chain, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms and may be attached directly to the aromatic ring without through X_1 or X_2; R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a methyl group; X_1 represents a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, or $-CH_2-$ group; X_2 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, -NHCO-, or $-CH_2$-group; and Z represents a -N=N-, -CH=N-, $-CH_2S-$, or -CH=CH- group **in a drive path.**

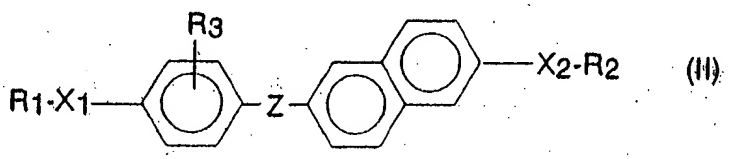
17. **(Currently Amended) An image display device comprising** ~~the compound according to claim 5~~ a liquid crystalline compound having charge transport capability and represented by the following general formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a straight-chain, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms and may be attached directly to the aromatic ring without through X_1 or X_2; R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a methyl group; X_1 represents a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, or $-CH_2-$ group; X_2 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, -NHCO-, or $-CH_2$-group; and Z represents a -N=N-, -CH=N-, $-CH_2S-$, or -CH=CH- group **in a drive path.**

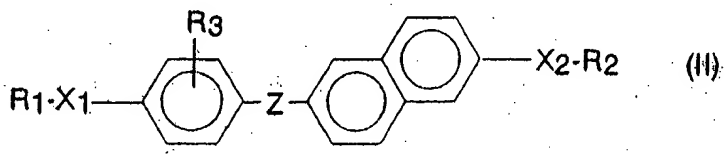
18. (Currently Amended) An electroluminescence device comprising ~~the compound according to claim 5~~ a liquid crystalline compound having charge transport capability and represented by the following general formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a straight-chain, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms and may be attached directly to the aromatic ring without through X_1 or X_2; R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a methyl group; X_1 represents a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, or $-CH_2-$ group; X_2 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, -NHCO-, or $-CH_2$-group; and Z represents a -N=N-, -CH=N-, $-CH_2S-$, or -CH=CH- group **in a drive path.**

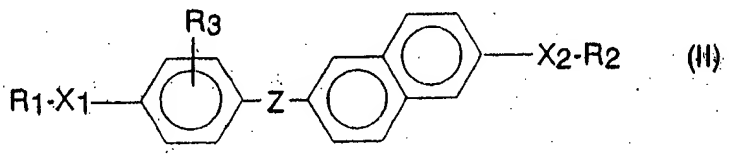
19. (Currently Amended) A photoconductor comprising ~~the compound according to claim 5~~ a liquid crystalline compound having charge transport capability and represented by the following general formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a straight-chain, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms and may be attached directly to the aromatic ring without through X_1 or X_2; R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a methyl group; X_1 represents a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, or $-CH_2-$ group; X_2 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, -NHCO-, or $-CH_2$-group; and Z represents a -N=N-, -CH=N-, $-CH_2S-$, or -CH=CH- group **in a drive path.**

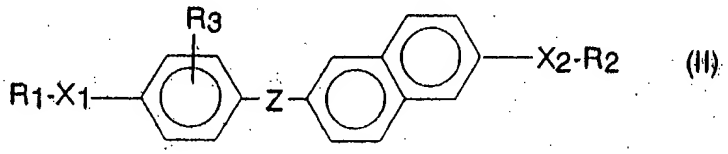
20. (Currently Amended) A space light modulating device comprising ~~the compound according to claim 5~~ a liquid crystalline compound having charge transport capability and represented by the following general formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a straight-chain, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms and may be attached directly to the aromatic ring without through X_1 or X_2; R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a methyl group; X_1 represents a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, or $-CH_2-$ group; X_2 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, -NHCO-, or $-CH_2$-group; and Z represents a -N=N-, -CH=N-, $-CH_2S-$, or -CH=CH- group **in a drive path.**

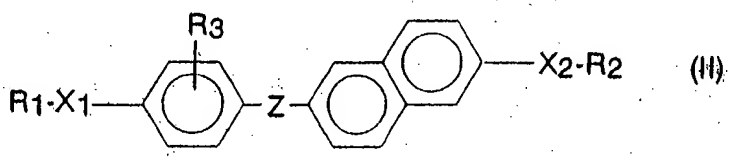
21. (Currently Amended) A thin film transistor comprising ~~the compound according to claim 5~~ a liquid crystalline compound having charge transport capability and represented by the following general formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a straight-chain, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms and may be attached directly to the aromatic ring without through X_1 or X_2; R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a methyl group; X_1 represents a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, or $-CH_2-$ group; X_2 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, -NHCO-, or $-CH_2-$group; and Z represents a -N=N-, -CH=N-, $-CH_2S-$, or -CH=CH- group **in a drive path.**

22. (Currently Amended) A sensor comprising ~~the compound according to claim 5~~ a liquid crystalline compound having charge transport capability and represented by the following general formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a straight-chain, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms and may be attached directly to the aromatic ring without through X_1 or X_2; R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a methyl group; X_1 represents a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, or $-CH_2-$ group; X_2 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, -NHCO-, or $-CH_2$-group; and Z represents a -N=N-, -CH=N-, $-CH_2S-$, or -CH=CH- group **in a drive path.**